

LAMBDA

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LU President Giroux receives Community Builder award

BY MATT RABEY

The Community Builder Award is an annual award given to a member of the Sudbury community that shows excellence in their field.

On Feb. 21, Laurentian University President Dominic Giroux was recognized in the category of education. "I am humbled by this recognition," said Giroux. "Especially as I follow in the steps of former recipients and dear friends such as Jean Hanson and Gisèle Chrétien."

Giroux has been a member of Laurentian University since April 2009, making him the youngest university president at age 33. Some of the accomplishments from his first term include: approval for the School of Architecture, the establishment of the Goodman School of Mines and the Centre for Academic Excellence and spearheading \$51 million in funds for campus renewal and modernization. All of these accomplishments have led the Laurentian board of governors to renew his appointment of president until June 30, 2019.

This appointment sees Giroux oversee a \$132-million budget, almost 10,000 students, 1,000 employees and \$25 million in research.

A leader is only as good as the people that they are leading according to Giroux, during his acceptance speech, as he paid recognition to everyone who helped him to win the award.

"The fact is that tonight I accept this recognition on behalf of the entire Laurentian University community. They are the true community builders and I am only up here on their behalf."

Giroux has had a history of leadership and being in the public eye.

His first public position being an elected trustee to an Ottawa school board at the age of 19.

Since his time in Ottawa he has gone on to be the assistant deputy minister with the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. While at this post he was in charge of 1,200 employees in 10 cities.

Giroux then went on to become one of the four members of the Drummond Commission on the Reform of Ontario's Public Services as well as co-special adviser on the implementation of a Northern Policy Institute.

For all of these accomplishments, Giroux has also received one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40 Awards in 2011 and a Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Giroux is expecting great things as he leads Laurentian University into the future.

"It is an exciting time to be part of the Laurentian community," said Giroux. "We have much to be proud of and much coming up."

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File Photo

Dominic Giroux has been president of Laurentian University since April 2009.

Laurentian celebrates Black History Month

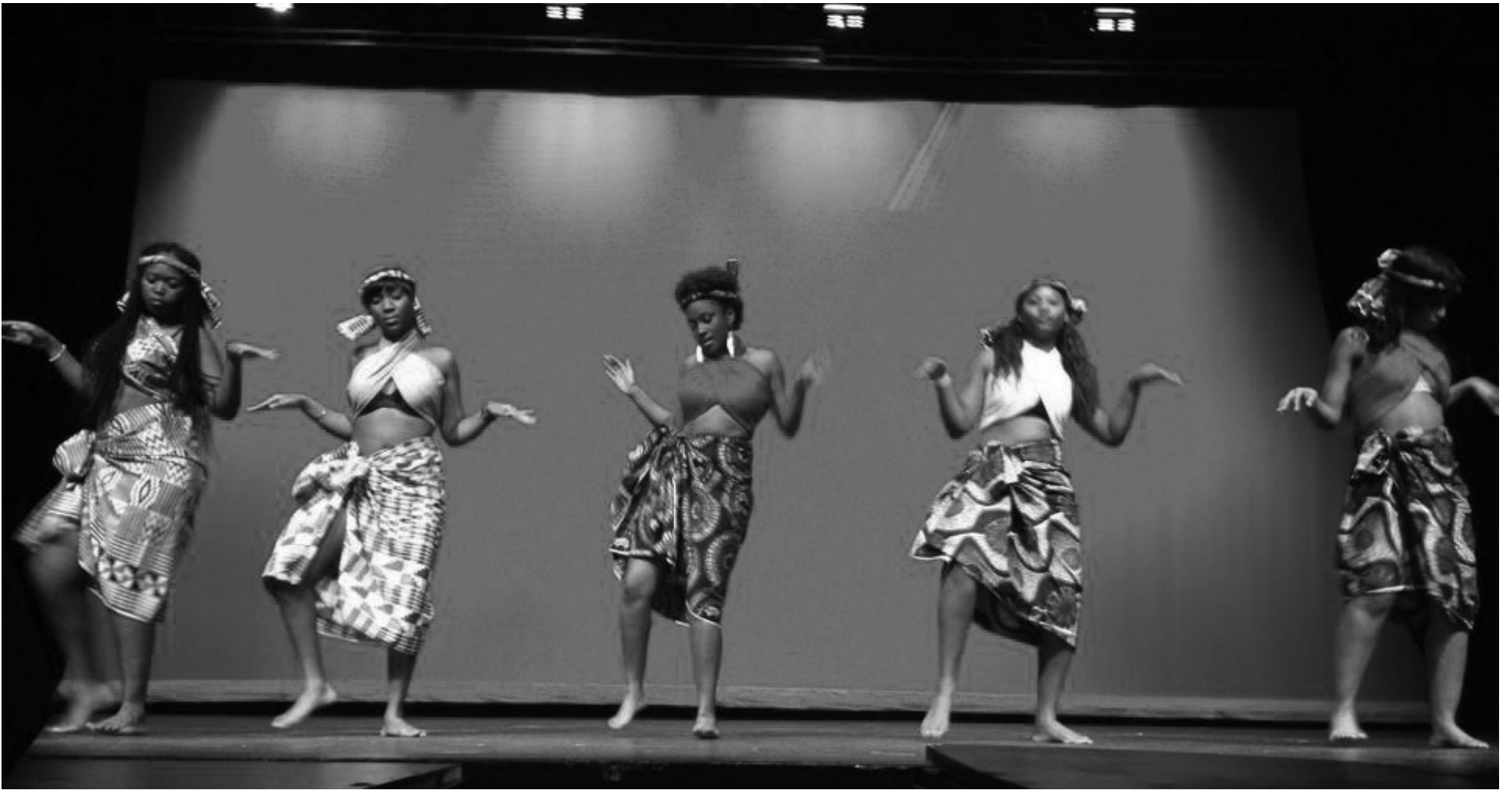


Photo by Ryan Neal

Performers celebrate Black History Month on Feb. 28 at the Alphonse Raymond.

BY KAYLA PERRY

The year 2013 has brought many 'firsts' to Laurentian University: the centre for Academic Excellence opened, student applications rose 23 percent, and now for the first time, Black History Month was celebrated.

Black history month, which is celebrated every February across the nation, usually passes with subtlety on LU campus. This year, however, the show "Our History is Our Future" was co-organized by the LU Black Student Union and the Laurentian University African Caribbean Student Association.

The celebration, which opened with the singing of

the national anthem, was a showcase of 14 performances including poets, motivational speakers, singers and dance groups. It was held for the first time ever on Feb. 28 in the Alphonse Raymond stage.

Monique Haynes, third-year Law and Justice Student at LU, was responsible for organizing the celebration.

"I thought it was pretty important for (Laurentian) to have some type of celebration, especially since there really hasn't been much going on at LU (in terms of Black history month)," said Haynes. "It would be great if this is something that becomes annual, because I feel like Black History Month is

something that gets forgotten."

The show consisted of two main parts; the first being performances that are relevant to the historical rights movements and the historical aspects of black culture, such as African song and dance, and the second consisting of more modern African-American culture, including rap artists and modern dance groups.

Artists including Afriti, SCHY, French Boy Teach, Chillaz and Chase Reason were only some of the 14 performers at the show.

Stephen Williams, a fifth-year Communications Studies student and LU Voyageurs basketball team member, was among those who attended the

celebration.

"(The show) is great, there is a lot more people than I thought there would be," said Williams. "It's for a great cause."

Chase Reason, a Toronto rap artist and one of the performers at the celebration, travelled from Toronto in order to perform.

"We almost never made it, but luckily we did. We are supporting the two unions at Laurentian, for a great month."

Later in the evening, an after-party for the celebration was hosted at On the Rocks.

Many artists such as Reason and French Boy Teach performed original songs at the celebration.

The show also featured a "Success Slide Show" which consisted of African-American

students who are getting their degrees at assorted universities.

Black History Month originated in 1926, when a week in February was designated as Negro History Week by historian Carter G. Woodson.

In 1967, the federal government officially recognized Black History Month as the month of February due to the week's popularity, and it has since then been celebrated annually.

"This is a celebration that should be and will be celebrated with everybody," said Haynes.

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Hudak apparently not aiming for student vote

LAMBDA STAFF

If it were up to Tim Hudak, many of us wouldn't be here at university, and many of us who rely on provincial funding would be left without (taking on debt that we are supposed to feel privileged to get).

In a recently-released commentary on higher-education, Higher Learning for Better Jobs, Hudak took aim at post-secondary students.

I understand the concept of holding students accountable, but doesn't the debt of going to school do that pretty well? I've never heard of a student saying, "those suckers at Queen's Park, I took on \$40,000 to get my education and I don't mind having that debt at all." Or, "Man, those OSAP repayments are so easy to make, talk about affordable. Thanks, Ontario!"

A bit dramatic, perhaps, but there is a stereotype we need to shed: going this far into debt is a privilege and the student life is easy.

Anyone who has wondered on the twenty-ninth or thirtieth of a month how they will pay rent on the upcoming first of the month knows all-too-well

what I mean.

Anyone who has lived on KD, or hot dogs, or bread for a week, knows what I am talking about.

Yes, there are students who blow their OSAP on drinking, sure there are. But, does Hudak honestly believe that's not a lesson-learning experience?

"Practical" government pursuits like spending on the economy shouldn't be frowned at, or lowering taxes, but it always depends on where the money is cut from.

Some of us still remember the common-sense revolution, when Mike Harris cut drastically from social programs and education in order to lower taxes, while his government increased the provincial debt.

Rising-tuition is a problem primarily created by the provincial government (among other groups and factors), and now Hudak is talking about cutting back on financial support to students. It seems more of like an assault on two fronts to students than a way to teach any sort of accountability. Students who lose their funding or can't receive it in the first

place, under Hudak's proposed rules, will feel cheated and demoralized. Their friends go to school, but they can't. The alternative? Working two jobs while in school, perhaps, will just result in poorer grades.

More than anything, Hudak's proposals would be a way of limiting access to education to families with parents willing to foot the bill, or to students who make the transition to university flawlessly from high school (performance-wise).

If Hudak was looking for a way to encourage more potential skilled labour into the market, and also encourage students to be able to jump out into the job market after school (and stay off their parents' couches, as Hudak quipped) he should lower tuition. He should destroy the culture of taking on debt to go to school. Make OSAP more affordable to pay back, and students can get on their feet quicker after graduation.

Tuition is the real culprit here, let's be honest.

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives published a report in 2011 that outlines

how much tuition has jumped since 1990. It is staggering:

"In 1990, the average university student paid only \$1,680 for a year (\$2,500 in 2011 dollars). This fall, the average undergraduate student will pay an estimated \$6,500 for the year. For the foreseeable future Ontario tuition rates will increase at 4% to 4.5% a year, more than double the rate of inflation."

Let that sink in. Before books, you will be paying \$4,000 more than someone going to university in 1990, AFTER inflation adjustment.

The report adds: "If tuition fees and other compulsory fees are adjusted for inflation, Ontario students have witnessed a 244% real tuition fee increase between 1990 and 2011."

Hudak seems to think solving Ontario's upcoming labour problems is as easy as steering students to college.

"Ontario has strong colleges and universities," Hudak stated in a PC release. "But too many graduates can't find work in the areas for which they've prepared. At the same time,

we face a shortage of skilled workers in the coming decades," he added, noting a 2012 Auditor General's finding that only 65 per cent had found jobs related to what they studied in university.

To me, it sounds like one of those ideas you get when you're drinking with your friends, blowing that OSAP money. "Hey guys, there is a need to fill here, and extra things over here. OMG, let's put them together and solve everything." We can all think up viable, province-saving solutions while drunk, right? I guess Hudak can too.

Not everyone is cut out for the trades-life, and some people have dreams to achieve.

Oh well, send everybody to college.

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Welcome to the Pub Downunder

BY MATT RABEY

The only place on campus legally permitted to sell alcohol, the Pub Downunder is the place where you can find students unwinding and having a drink.

The Students' General Association (SGA) operates the pub and the staff consists of SGA members.

Cheryl Powell, senior manager explained, "everyone who works here is an SGA member because we are owned and operated by the SGA. We have almost zero affiliation with the university except for the fact that we are SGA-operated."

The space is leased off of Laurentian University, but the pub does have to answer to the university if incidents happen on the premises.

If any incidents do occur at the pub, the consequences for those involved can be severe,

as Powell explains, "we have a code of sanctions that is a very strict guideline. As in, you do this, this is the penalty. It generally works on pub bans. They are everywhere from three months, to a lifetime ban."

Anyone caught fighting in the pub will immediately receive a lifetime ban.

The pub, however, does not have many instances where security needs to get involved.

"We're pretty lucky here compared to other bars," said Powell. "I'm not saying that things don't happen, but if you look at particularly the city clubs, we don't have the same kind of issues. Guns, knives, broken bottles, I've been here nine years and I've never had an incident like that happen. If we have a handful of serious incidents, actual physical

altercations a year, that's about standard for us."

Incidents are not always fights, for instance, at a pub event the DJ told everyone to get on the tables. One girl got up on the table and fell, resulting in her immediate expulsion from the pub.

"Our main job is to keep both our staff and our patrons safe," said Powell. "If we start seeing risky behaviour like that, sorry you're going to have to leave. They are usually pretty quickly handled with no serious repercussions."

The security at the pub is handled by the pub itself and is composed of licensed security guards and in-house security.

On an average pub night, the number of people working is between five and ten staff members, with one of them

acting as head bartender and head of security.

This past fall, the pub started introducing a small menu.

"We've actually been talking about doing it for years," said Powell. "But, because Aramark has the contract for food, we did have to work it out with them. We finally got it going last year and they replaced the chef, so we kind of had to start again.

It seems to be working really well, I'm pretty happy about it. It's bringing in that different crowd in the afternoons."

All of the profit from the sale of food goes directly to Aramark, but this will potentially change as Powell explained.

"[It's] sort of a trial, in September we'll renegotiate and say 'you're making this many dollars, why can't we get a little cut of that?'"

The pub is also looking into expanding their food operation by possibly introducing wing nights or special appetizers.

"We're working on ideas like this," said Powell. "Will we see them this year? I don't think so. It is something that we are pushing for."

Since introducing food, however, the pub increased its prices within the first month resulting in complaints from the student body.

"Our hands are pretty tied with the contract with the university," said Powell. "It's tough for us, the menu's changed, the prices have changed and we've taken some heat for it, but we don't have a lot of control over it. We just apologize and say we're doing the best we can."

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LU holds 'Fit for Heart Walk'

BY KAYLA PERRY

The seventh-annual Fit for Heart Walk took place in the Laurentian Active Living Centre on Feb. 28.

The walk, which is organized in cooperation with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, was held in order to raise awareness of healthy living and raise money for the foundation.

This year was the first of seven years that the walk-a-thon was held indoors.

Claudine Beausoliel, Bharti School of Engineering administrative assistant and co-op coordinator, is a regular attendee of the fit for heart walks here at Laurentian.

"I'm here as a mentor to students – you have to go out and do something for your students to do the same," said Beausoliel. "(Teachers) tell students to eat well and not to smoke, but it's all about actually being an advocate of good health. The best way to promote something is to do it yourself."

The walk took place on the track in the Ben Avery building, and was held for three hours, during which participants were asked to walk a total of 10 laps around the track. Given the length of the track (400 metres long) the walk was in total 2 kilometres.

The walk also featured a race between the LU Voyageurs mascot and the Heart and Stroke Foundation's 'Heart Hero.' The race was undoubtedly won by the Heart Hero, although the Voyager made a great effort.

Lyne Rivet, Manager of the Health and Wellness Centre at LU, played a large role in organizing the event, and was hoping for the walk to raise a minimum of \$1,000 as it has in the past.

"(By organizing the walk) we want to encourage people to get active, and this walk is a good opportunity to do that," said Rivet. "We also want to showcase the (fairly new) indoor track at LU."

Rivet plans on continuing to host the

walk at LU annually.

Prizes brought by the Heart and Stroke foundation, such as t-shirts, backpacks and water bottles, are scheduled to be handed out next week, when pledge results are calculated.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation, which was founded more than 60 years ago, has invested over \$1.3 billion to heart and stroke research. Since the foundation began, deaths from heart disease have declined by more than 75 per cent – however, cardiovascular disease is still a leading cause of deaths world-wide.

In 2008, cardiovascular disease accounted for 29 per cent of all deaths in Canada, and 9 in 10 Canadian men and women have at least one risk factor for heart disease.

For more information on heart disease, strokes, or tips for healthy

living, go to www.heartandstroke.com.

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Dr. Paolo Biondi talks democracy, capitalism and imagination

BY MATT RABEY

On Feb. 28, Dr. Paolo Biondi held a talk on democracy, capitalism and the imagination.

The talk, labelled a paper bag lunch lecture, was held in the Ludger & Amanda Michel University Commons.

Biondi's talk centred around how what we have in Canada is not a true democracy and what people can do to change it to make it one.

Biondi analyzed capitalism from a Rousseau point of view, something that people in attendance found unique.

"I have never done a Rousseau analysis of capitalism in any of my courses at all," said Robert Pigeon, a third-year Sociology Major with a minor in Ethics. "I took a lot of Sociology courses, so it's really interesting to hear an analysis of capitalism that doesn't really go into any of the stuff that I'm used to going into."

Biondi spoke of how people within society have to overcome their selfishness in order for that society to thrive.

He gave an example of how contractors intentionally inflate their prices when they are for government contracts.

Biondi said that while they may be benefiting themselves in the interim, they are actually hurting everyone within that society in the long run, as citizens have to make up for that overpriced contract

through taxes.

The solution for this, he said, was legislation and education.

People would be brought up to understand how to live within society and with a knowledge of how democracy should work.

"I have never done a Rousseau analysis of capitalism in any of my courses at all. I took a lot of Sociology courses, so it's really interesting to hear an analysis of capitalism that doesn't really go into any of the stuff that I'm used to going into."

Robert Pigeon, a third-year Sociology Major with a minor in Ethics.

He then went on to say that unions, as well as all political parties, should be abolished as they create separation between people.

For example, instead of a union serving the interests of everyone, Biondi said, it serves the interests of the union sometimes even at the

detriment of the business.

The same is also true of political parties, he added, and in many circumstances they serve the interests of their specific party instead of the interests of all Canadians.

Biondi then suggested that more power should be consolidated at the municipal level as they have a better idea of what needs to be done within the community.

Also within the public sector, Biondi said that there should be more accountability and adherence to the rule of law.

If someone did not do what is best for society and instead did illegally what was in their best interest while in public office, they would be severely punished.

As for corporations, Biondi proposed that they should enter into a profit-sharing relationship with their workers so that the wealth is distributed fairly instead of being only at the highest level.

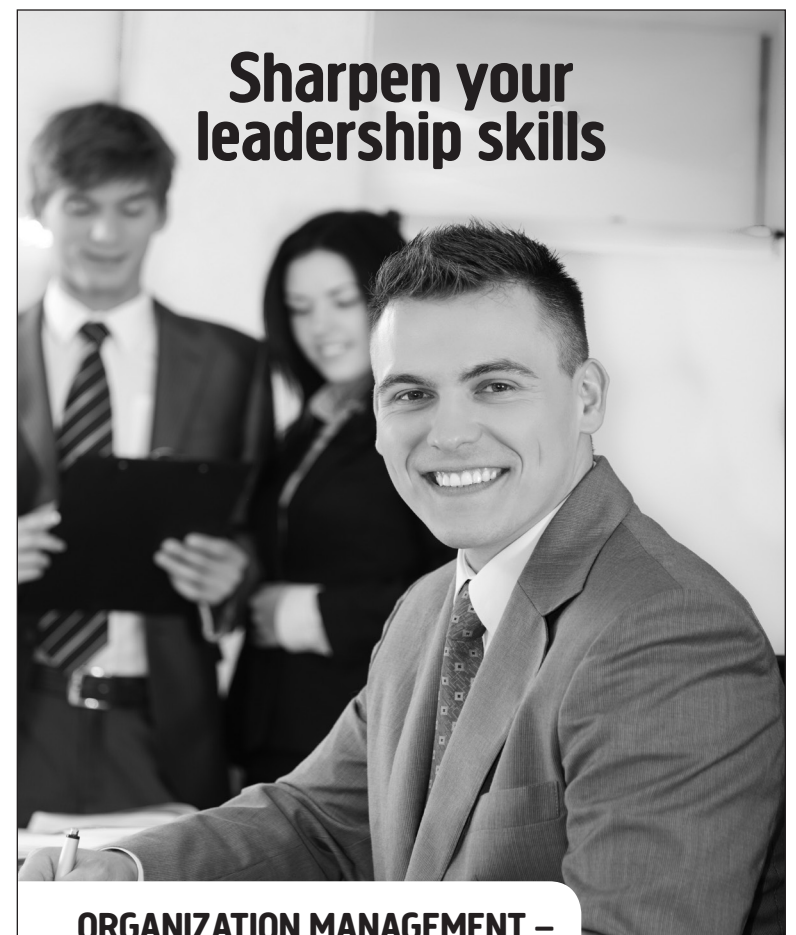
Many of Biondi's ideas seem to run directly against capitalist doctrine, but Biondi says that capitalism is undemocratic as it is based on the best interests of the rich and not the rest of society.

After his lecture concluded, the floor opened up for discussion, which generated many ideas and hypothetical situations for what this new society would be like.

Pigeon had this to say

about the overall experience, "It was fun, I liked it. It was nice because it was a possible solution. I'm not sure if it is the

perfect solution, but his ideas give us a way to come up with our own solution." lambda@laurentian.ca



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\$4.4m given to create Canadian ecosystem network

BY WILLIE POLL

Laurentian University and the Vale Living with Lakes Centre, along with 10 other Canadian universities, received \$4.4 million dollars in funding to create the Canadian Network for Aquatic Ecosystem Services.

"Up on the Hudson Bay coast we've been working with first nations communities addressing some of their concerns that the rivers are changing," Dr. John Gunn, Canada Research Chair for Stressed Aquatic Systems and Director of the Vale Living With Lakes Centre at Laurentian University, said.

The first nations peoples of Northern Ontario have been noticing climate change, water levels getting lower, more weeds, and more pike which was a species rarely seen in these rivers before. Using traditional ecological knowledge, as well as science, the Living with Lakes center hope to answer some of the main questions the first nations people are raising.

"Our project is asking big

questions over a number of many years ahead of us, how will climate change change the nature of the fish and the water quality in such a big system, and what will be the impact of new development such as rail ways, roads and towns," Gunn said.

The research being done on the Hudson Bay coast happens to be on some of the most controversial territory: Attawapiskat. Recently Attawapiskat has been fighting for aboriginal rights and the environment. Currently the area is very difficult to reach and costly to visit. The area is desolate and much of it lacks electricity, running water, and clean drinking water. It is home to a diamond mine, as well, there has been an oil deposit recently found close by. These factors can mean many things for the first nations peoples as well as the environment including railways and roads being built, as well as urbanization.

The north is also home to the second largest wetland in the world, an important

place because according to Gunn, it is a wetland that absorbs contaminants from the atmosphere like green house gasses and is a major site for cleaning up the atmosphere that could be considered the lungs of the earth. The project will also involve testing these areas to further predict their future. An issue raised throughout the north is the mercury, which over the year has accumulated there and does not appear to be getting any better.

"Mercury is from the burning of fossil fuels," Gunn said. "Most of the mercury is caused by coal and natural gas. Combustion then travels through the atmosphere, and then, unfortunately, the north is where it settles. Warm mercury polluted air comes down and settles in cold areas, so the poor first nations people don't get any benefit from the activity that generated all of this, but the pollutant even from China come over the pole and land in Northern Canada."

Many of the once commercial

fishing rivers have been contaminated, and although it is mainly the older fish that have high levels of mercury, it is still an issue, said Gunn.

"The people in Attawapiskat, or other first nations communities, do of course use the fish very importantly for food," Gunn said. "And we don't want to discourage that because the mercury problem is concentrated in a few large individuals in the population and if you had to choose between eating wild fish and eating junk

food, fish is better. A lot of these people suffer serious diabetes and health problems, their best quality food is their wild food."

Using a unique mixture of traditional knowledge and science, the team hopes to start sampling the water shed soon, but with a small team working on an area the size of Nova Scotia, in one of the most controversial places, the challenge is a hard one.

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Ben Avery plays host to pow wow

BY WILLIE POLL

On March 2, the Ben Avery Gym echoed with the sounds of bells, drums and songs as Laurentian kicked off the beginning of March with a pow wow, planned and presented by the Indigenous Student circle. The gym flourished with an array of brightly coloured dancers dressed in full regalia for the event. Drummers, dancers, and speakers came from all over the surrounding area to participate in the pow wow.

In total, more than 100 people gathered in the Ben Avery Gym to honor Indigenous global unity.

"I really enjoyed the pow wow," Kent Anderson, a second-year LU student, said. "It was different than other pow wows I've been to, being that it was indoors, but it was still an enjoyable experience. The drumming was gorgeous, and the cultural experience is something I never get tired of."

The event started with a blessing the grounds grass dance, a Grand Entry, and speeches by elders

and special guests such as Art Petahtegoose and Chief Steven Miller. Along with numerous dances and songs, there was a 4 p.m. feast at the Canisius Hall, as well as drum teachings. The event was also home to numerous vendors who showcased their aboriginal artwork, jewelry and much more.

"Laurentian should host them for a number of reasons," Anderson said. "Despite being a school that is lauded for the level of interaction with the Native community that it has, it still doesn't do all that much in terms of hosting Native events that people can attend and support. Aside from a chat with an elder last year in the tipi this was the first event that I've heard of or attended."

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Letter to the editor: 'Edges: broken and mended'

FROM HUGH KRUZEL

Am I in that time of life filled more often with remembrances of things past; those done, and perhaps those many more which are undone? Would "yet" be easily slipped in there to signify a hopefulness rather than resignation that some opportunities are lost?

And what should bring this musing on? You will laugh: Laurentian's Annual Suitcase Party.

Now what's a 50 year (okay add a few) old guy going to this wild Friday dancefest? I must admit to a certain nostalgia that took control and contributed to my whim of purchasing a ticket.

Critical placement along the campus

"Bowling Alley" and I was knocked out of my day-dreaming transit by two young lads (who but a grey beard would say "young lads"?) who cried out in unison news of this wondrous gathering. Their youthful exuberance alone had me thinking the minor discretionary dollars were going to a good cause. Buy a ticket? Sure. Attend? Maybe.

At the door no one asked for my ID. Am I surprised? I still feel 19 on the inside some days.

Gosh, I think it is three-decades (plus!) since I last showed up at one of these. I should have worn flip-flops, a loud Hawai'ian silk shirt, a Panama hat, Bermuda shorts. Lithe bodies and bejewelled

tootsies braved the January storm and 8 inches of fresh powder; skipping gayly in the footsteps in the snow. Such contrast (or maybe thumbing the nose at winter indeed part of the celebration) of heat of summer attire (or bare flesh) when all I could think about was a glass of robust Shiraz and a glowing fire awaiting me at home.

The music was good, the tunes recognizable (I have teenage children), the animated graphics mesmerizing, and it almost was enough to transport me back. But this is not the 80s, this is not the music, and gosh it wasn't as if I knew soul in the crowd that had shown up after the basketball game.

I'm glad I went if only to recall lost faces and flashes from the past. I had a moment; and then it was over.

I smiled at glowing young couples that had not yet found each other. I nodded at the individuals who had still to graduate and go forward into the world. I prayed for success for each and every of them. Where will they be 33 years from now? Who will they be 33 years from now? What will they be thinking 33 years from now?

I had a beer, wished the organizers well. I went to clean off the car and slip and slide along the road home.

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Shawn Swords is Nick Fury



BY RON GUILLET

Shawn Swords has been head coach of the Laurentian Voyageurs' basketball team for seven years. He guided the team to a successful 11-9 campaign this year, the best yet under his watch.

One only needs to watch a single game at the Ben Avery Gymnasium to see Swords' unbridled enthusiasm. He's vocal on the court, always providing his players advice and challenging them to go the extra mile.

Swords played 10 years of professional basketball overseas and over 100

international games for Canada, including the 2000 Olympic team in Sydney, and the 2003 FIBA Americas Olympic Qualifying team. He also represented the Voyageurs from 1992 to 1997.

This makes Swords a carbon copy of Nick Fury, director of S.H.I.E.L.D.. Fury is athletic and an expert tactician with plenty of experience in the field, much like Swords. Swords may not don an eye patch or be a combat expert, but the offensive attack of the Voyageurs speaks for itself.

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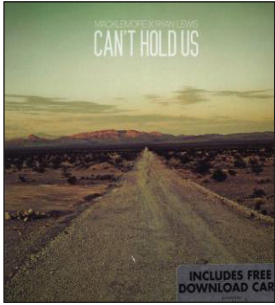
Illustrations provided by Marvel Comics

As far as tactical intelligence, Nick Fury is the best in comics. Heroes rely on him constantly for information and advice.



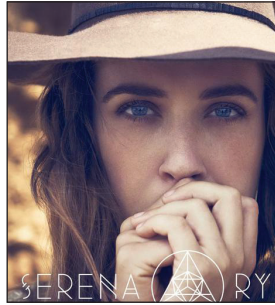
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Kayla Perry - Staff writer



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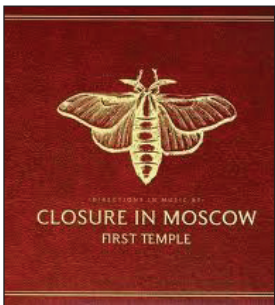
**What I
Wouldn't Do**



Rihanna

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Ron Guillet - Editor



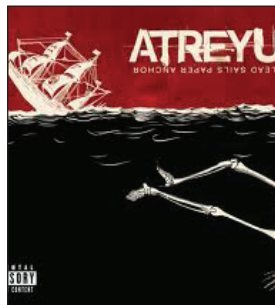
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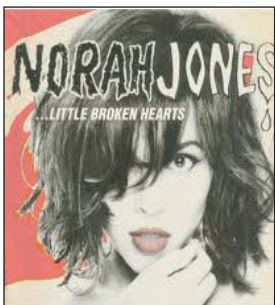
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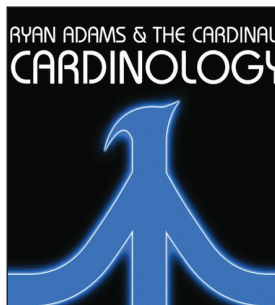
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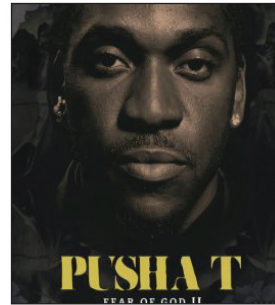
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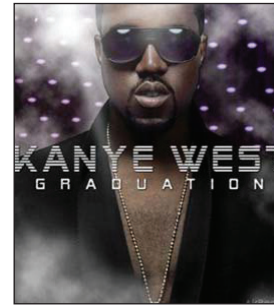
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Voyageurs wrap-up solid season



Photos by Ron Guillet

(top) The Voyageurs get ready pre-game for the Queen's Gaels; (bottom) Yengue lines up for a shot.

BY RON GUILLET

The Laurentian Voyageurs had their best season in over six years, reaching the East semi-final and posting an 11-9 record on the season.

The Voyageurs season came to an end against the Carleton Ravens after defeating the Queen's Gaels at home 93-80 on Feb.20.

The Voyageurs finished in the top-10 in nearly all of the statistical categories, excluding rebounding in which they placed 12th in the OUA. Their defense in particular proved efficient at stymieing the opposition both from the field-goal and three-point arc, as they finished fourth and second in those categories, respectively. They're also third with 66 blocks and 10th with 154 steals.

From an offensive standpoint, the Voyageurs finished fifth in the OUA in points for, led by Alex Ratte, Manny Pasquale, and Georges Serresse—who all finished in the top-20 scoring. They were the fourth-most efficient at field-goal shooting with a 44 per cent; and fifth from the arc with 33 per cent

efficiency. They also ranked second in free-throw percentage with a 77 per cent, capitalizing on 283 out of 369 attempts.

"Somewhat pleased with the season overall," Head coach Shawn Swords said. "We played Carleton well and gave them a tough game, similar to last year."

Swords was most impressed with the development of sophomore Alex Ratte, who "improved in every aspect." He was also pleased with sophomore Nelson Yengue, who "was asked to do a lot inside despite being six-foot-three." Yengue played a larger role on the team, vaulting from 17.6 minutes-per-game last season to 24.4. His PPG nearly doubled while he did so in blocks.

The Voyageurs will enter next season without Serresse, Pasquale, Jamie Weldon and Stephen Williams. With two of their top scorers graduating, Swords said they'll look for players to step up internally, mentioning Josh Budd in specific among other players entering their sophomore

seasons.

Serresse thought his last season with the Voyageurs was "bittersweet."

"Our play was disappointing some games, but the group dynamics were really good this year," Serresse said.

Serresse, who played 108 career games with the Voyageurs, has no regrets donning the blue and gold.

"When I look back at my time with the Voyageurs I feel a sense of pride," Serresse said. "Over the years I have watched the team develop, both with each other and in skill, with the coming and going of players. Through everything we have gone through we have always kept our spirits up and represented our school, and our city."

ronguillet@gmail.com

Lady Vees season a tale of two halves

BY RON GUILLET

The Laurentian Lady Vees came close to ending a two-year playoff drought, but it wasn't meant to be as they dropped their last eight games and finished last in the East division.

The turning point of the season was no doubt the loss of Sasha Polishchuk, who finished third in the Ontario University Athletics with 17.2 points-per-game. The Lady Vees were 5-7 before losing Polishchuk to injury, looking well on their way to a post-season berth.

Danielle Harris was among the players that elevated their game in the absence of Polishchuk, but the Lady Vees were ultimately undone by a lack of offensive potency and inconsistency. The team finished 14th in the OUA in scoring offence, but third in scoring

defence. They allowed the fourth most points against and were second-last in scoring margin with a -235. Laurentian will no doubt look to improve their rebounding, as they finished last in the category.

The Lady Vees' struggles aside, the team also had some bright spots as they continued their development as a young team. They finished in the top-10 in three-point percentages with 30 per cent efficiency. While the rebounding struggles didn't help on the defensive side of things, the Lady Vees finished third in three-point percentage defence, and seventh in field-goal defence. They also finished sixth in blocks.

Erin Simpson expressed frustration over the lack of consistency down the stretch.

"Obviously I'm not super happy with the season overall

because I had higher expectations for our team," Simpson said. "For the third year in a row we have failed to make the playoffs and it especially hit me hard this year because we had early success and for the most part our team worked really hard all season long."

Simpson said the Lady Vees must improve their "cohesiveness on the court" but the team's strongest asset is "our willingness to learn and get better."

The Lady Vees will lose both Polishchuk and Kaitlyn Young in the off-season. Emily Tymchuk and Jenna Davidson may be thrust into larger roles as they enter their respective sophomore seasons. Davidson finished with 6.4 PPG in 11.3 minutes-per-game. With added minutes she may become a key piece for the Lady Vees moving forward.

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LU wrestlers show potential in OUA Championships

BY LAMBDA STAFF

The Laurentian wrestling teams were in St. Catharines on the weekend of Feb. 16, taking part in the OUA Championships.

Despite not coming home with any hardware, the young teams came away with a number of top-five finishes and showed the rest of the province that they will be contenders in the years to come.

On the men's side, local wrestler Dylan Galloway dropped his first two matches to the eventual bronze and gold medalists, and ultimately the OUA Rookie of the Year, before bettering the entry from York for 5th place in the 57kg weight class. In the 61kg division, it was much the same story as first year athlete Alex Aubin was pooled together with the bronze medalist and gold medal winner, who was also the OUA Most Outstanding Wrestler, before beating the entry from Lakehead for fifth place. Rounding out the men's

team was Ryan Karn (who finished in 7th in the 72kg division in his first year on the team. As a team, the men finished in 7th place with 10 points.

On the women's side, Emily Morgan led the charge with a 4th place finish in the 55kg division, losing the bronze medal match to the wrestler from Lakehead. Sam Demers grabbed fifth spot in the 72kg division after losing to the bronze and gold medalist before a come from behind victory over the McMaster entry. Wrapping up the women's team was Sophie Bilodeau as she settled for 6th in the 82kg division. As a team, the women finished in a tie for 7th with 12 points.

The Championship concludes the season for the Voyageurs wrestling team.

Rabey's round-up: Goal-line technology long overdue

BY MATT RABEY

Within the world of football there has been an ongoing discussion for years and now finally, FIFA has caved to popular demand, World Cup 2014 will have goal-line technology.

Any fan of the beautiful game can recall the incident that laid to rest remaining objections by FIFA, Frank Lampard's disallowed goal against Germany in World Cup 2010.

The game ended in a 4-1 blowout in favour of the German side and some say that even if the goal were allowed to stand the result would still

be a German victory.

This, however, does not take into account the fact that England was on route to a dramatic first half comeback and would have gone to the dressing room on a high instead of angry against the injustice.

The momentum of drawing level with Germany at the half could easily have been carried into the second half and who knows, maybe England could have won.

Regardless, what is certain is that having goal line technology in this instance would have seen a much

different and fair game played out instead of talk of things that should have been.

Goal-line technology has already been utilized at the 2012 World Club Cup. The first game that it was ever featured in was in the quarterfinal bout between Sanfrece Hiroshima and Auckland City.

It was then used throughout the rest of the tournament and although it never had to be used in a game situation, its trial was considered a success.

This is still only a small step in the

right direction though as all of the top leagues in the world still have yet to adopt goal line technology.

In particular UEFA, arguably the body responsible for overseeing the largest football tournaments at the club level, has decided to use the two extra linesmen on each goal line.

While this may seem like a solution to some it has already been proven ineffective as was seen in the 2012 Euro Cup when Ukraine scored a goal against England that did not stand.

The linesman was positioned perfectly in this instance and yet was

unable to make the right call, through no fault of his own.

Football is a high paced game and with the naked eye sometimes mistakes are made.

It is only right that the most watched international tournament be called fairly and with the technology being used for years in other sports it is about time that it is a staple feature in football.



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Ontario teacher's college applications down by 50 per cent

WINDSOR (CUP) — Ontario schools are battling a downward trend to fill vacant seats at its teacher's colleges.

The Ontario Universities' Application Centre reports that nearly half, 49 per cent, of people applied to teacher's college in January 2013 (8,199) compared to 2007 (16,042). There were 15 per cent fewer applications in the last year alone.

This month, the University of Windsor received 1,359 applications to its education program, but 1,815 in January 2012. Compared to the year prior, the school experienced drops of approximately 13 per cent in 2012, six per cent in 2011, 21 per cent in 2010 and 35 per cent in 2009.

"There is a downward spiral, said Geri Salinitri, acting dean of UWindsor's Faculty of Education. "There was a growth from 2000 to about 2007 in the number of teachers that were hired. By 2008, it was almost a dead halt. It's been pretty sketchy from 2008 until now."

UWindsor has extended its deadline for September 2013 admission until March 1 in hopes of attracting more students to its education program.

"We are continuing to keep the door open," Salinitri said.

Declining applications to teaching programs has led to fewer students in the classroom. Full- and part-

time education enrolment at Windsor has declined over recent years. Fall semester rates dropped sharply from 846 in 2008 — a high number largely attributed to the Double Cohort students entering teacher's college — to 668 the following year. Admissions have remained somewhat steady since then, sitting at 635 students last fall.

"Windsor is right at the end of the province and the big catchment pool is in the Toronto area. Sometimes we're not the first choice [for applicants] ... right now most of our catchment area is going to be local students," said Salinitri, who estimates that 60 to 70 per cent of students come from Windsor-Essex.

Salinitri also said there are too many people graduating from teacher's college for the amount of positions available provincially. She said she too struggled to find a full-time teaching job after graduating from the Windsor program in 1978, working part-time for six years before landing something permanent.

Julie Ferguson-Shand has also faced similar challenges. The 2006 graduate of Windsor's education program never found a teaching job in Ontario. She spent years working teaching contracts in Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T., in Nelson House, Man. on a reserve and three years in Ross River, Y.T.

She stopped teaching last June, moving to Nova

Scotia with her husband to have better access to health care. They now operate a bakeshop in Shelburne, N.S.

"I knew graduating that there were no jobs in Ontario. When you apply in Ontario, you actually have to pay to apply for jobs, which is ridiculous. And Ontario teachers don't make very much money compared to the rest of Canada," said Ferguson-Shand. "When I looked at it, I could make \$105,000 as a first-year teacher in the Arctic and it's \$38,000 in Ontario. I said, 'Sure. I'll go to the Arctic for the experience.'"

Teaching in the north, Ferguson-Shand said she dealt with isolation, the social problems affecting her students and poor salaries while working at a reserve, rather than government-run, school. But she said the experience of teaching a small group allowed her to develop a close relationship with her students.

Both Ferguson-Shand and Salinitri agree that those wanting to teach must be open to moving out of province to find work.

Salinitri said there's a huge market for teachers in northern Canadian provinces such as Nunavut and internationally in England, Sweden, Australia and Asia.

"[Working in northern Canada] you do get the isolation pay and you do get an experience that is unique. If you're competing with a recent grad and

you come back [to Ontario] with two or three years experience ... you're much more marketable."

Salinitri said people worried about finding work as a teacher should look to the benefits that a teaching degree provides for work in other industries. "A teaching degree gives you those interpersonal soft skills and instructional strategies that can help in many areas of management."

Many graduates don't end up full-time teachers, Ferguson-Shand said. "Most of the people I graduated with, I can only count two or three who have a teaching job. The rest have been on supply [teaching] for six or seven years," she said. "Some of them work restaurants ... or are on EI because they are working a couple [supply teaching] shifts a week."

"I think a lot of people are turning away because they've been warned of the problems in the profession right now. If somebody had told me how hard it was to get a job, I might have thought about something else."

Despite the current employment trend for teachers, Salinitri predicts that there will be a wave of retirements in 2014-2015, and a lot of young teachers are starting maternity leaves, leaving opening doors for new hires.

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Cortical Column: Functions of the medulla and pons

BY LUCAS TESSARO

In this issue of Cortical Column, we continue the journey along the central nervous system from the spinal cord to the next delineation of the CNS – the medulla and the pons. These two structures are evolutionarily the oldest components of the human brain, found in most other forms of sentient life. The medulla and pons are considered to be part of the brainstem (as opposed to the spinal cord) and while coupled, have very different functions.

Superficially, the area of the medulla and pons can be distinguished only on the ventral side. A number of cranial nerves emerge from this region of the brainstem, such as the vagus, hypoglossal, and trigeminal nerves. Cranial nerves have highly specialized functions and will be the subject of a later Column. Also highly visible are the corticospinal (pyramidal) tracts, the function of which were outlined in a previous Column. A general rule when looking at the deeper structures of the medulla/pons is that most dorsal structures are sensory, while most ventral structures are motor.

The medulla can be considered an autonomic centre for bodily functions. Most of our daily, life-sustaining actions are controlled via the medulla such as cardiac rhythms, respiration, vasomotor responses and even vomiting. In fact within the 4th ventricle there is a special sense organ, the area postrema, whose main purpose is to ‘analyze’ the chemical content of the cerebrospinal fluid and induce vomiting. It also plays a role in the response of ‘taste aversion’, which is a form of conditioning where a subject learns to avoid a stimulus due to the nausea induced from it.

The pons (Latin for ‘bridge’) is aptly named as it forms a high traffic area of connections between the lower brainstem/spinal cord, the cerebellum and the upper brain, more specifically the forebrain. Other important functions are located in nuclei of neurons which are involved with sleep regulation, respiration, swallowing, and bladder control. Special senses like hearing, taste and vision have relay centres located in this area. The superior olive draws your attention to new or sudden auditory stimuli, and the inferior olive assists with highly specialized motor tasks.

Throughout the medulla and the pons are numerous other centres that either amalgamate information for further processing or modify incoming information. In the region where the hypoglossal, accessory and vagal cranial nerves emerge are centres devoted to controlling

various functions such as the motor function of the tongue, the dilation and elevation of the pharynx during swallowing and even some generic somatic input from the larynx and tips of the ears. Some interesting phenomena are also associated with these regions – the ‘fear taste’ when one is frightened is a response from the gustatory component of the vagus nerve, and the same nerve is involved with the ‘speaking in tongues’ phenomena (known unsurprisingly as ‘vagal speech’).

Moving along the medulla/pons is the area dominated by the glossopharyngeal and acoustic nerves. As implied by the name, this area has nuclei whose functioning is in the area of gustation and audition. In addition are vestibule-cochlear nuclei associated with the experience of balance and oddly enough digestion (peristalsis and emesis). A number of reflexes are also associated with this region, such as the ‘righting’ reflex one has when losing balance, as well as the semi-automatic movement of the eyes towards a novel stimuli.

The basal and tegmental region of the pons innervates the majority of the muscles which enable facial expression, as well as the gustatory component of the anterior 2/3 of the tongue. One of the classic disorders associated with malfunction in this region is Bell’s Palsy, where patients have poor motor control over one side of their face.

Also located within the pons is the trigeminal complex, named after the trigeminal nerve which is the largest cranial nerve. This nerve has multiple innervations – forehead, upper eyelid, cornea, upper lip, nose membranes, teeth, jaw, and portions of the dura mater. One of the most common knock-outs in contact and combative sports is due to a hit in the jaw area, trauma to which sends a ‘shockwave’ back into the pons which induces unconsciousness.

The level of the medulla and pons also hold two important centres – the locus ceruleus and the reticular core. The former is the main source of norepinephrine and functions in the behaviour of self-monitoring and many experiences of pleasure. The latter is the activation core of the brain – your ability to attend to stimuli and maintain this attention is intimately tied here. The ability to remain aroused (mentally – get your minds out of the gutter) is due to the monitoring of information ascending and descending through the reticular core of the pons.

In the next issue of the Lambda, Cortical Column will take a look at the cerebellum and the midbrain.

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Travelling more appealing than ever for students

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

There is a certain appeal to travelling abroad for any Canadian student, but I believe students in certain areas of Canada feel it more than others.

It is not even just about travelling abroad, it’s more about being somewhere different.

Students travel all the time, and it’s a good thing, because it’s one of the most important experiences a student can have.

Before moving out to St. John’s in August 2011, I had spent my entire life living in Sudbury.

I visited many cities in Ontario, and a couple in Quebec, but had never seen any other regions of Canada.

Coming out here has been a phenomenal experience, and I’ve since travelled through most of Canada, including a trip to Victoria, British Columbia.

In Sudbury, everybody sees Toronto as some holy grail of cities, and it is a destination for many Sudburians. Ottawa is also a major destination, due to its bilingualism, which Sudbury also boasts to a large degree.

I have been shocked to find the same appeal for Toronto among many of the students I have met in St. John’s.

What is it that makes young Sudburians crave the bright lights of Toronto?

The answer is fairly obvious: students

crave the fast-paced, always-exciting flagship city of Canada, because they are from the hinterlands.

Toronto represents everything many students, and even non-students in their late teens and early twenties, want.

It is exciting, there is always something to do -and something for all different interests, really - and there are hundreds of thousands of others your own age.

This desire to travel is a good thing, even if its focused solely on Toronto for many students.

Travelling has taken on an all-new importance with post-secondary education no longer as rare as it used to be.

Students are attending university in record numbers, and the competition for jobs and further education is getting more difficult all the time.

In this light, it’s more important than ever for Canadian students to begin looking at ways to make their educational experience -and obviously their resumé – stand out ahead of those of their peers.

Travel experience is one way to do this, but not in the sense of listing which places you have visited on your resumé.

It’s a great sign for employers to see that you can be in a new setting and still be effective, and showing you can adapt in a new location is always a great way to demonstrate that.

Go finish up a graduate degree at another university, or grab a post-graduate diploma or certificate from a school somewhere else.

Not only will it prove you can be successful elsewhere, it will also give you a chance to gain some fun, valuable experience.

I always try to show how post-secondary education is all about trends, and the trend of travelling is becoming bigger.

Exchange programs have been around for ages, and are very popular, but they are usually fairly short.

One of the new waves of living abroad in post-secondary education centres around the notion of international, dual-PhD programs.

These PhD programs, which began to gain traction in Quebec a few years back, see students sign on with a university in Canada and a university internationally.

The schools decide on an agreement, and the student begins a PhD at both institutions, under two supervisors.

The students end up with either two PhD’s, which both indicate they were completed together, or a PhD signed by both institutions.

Why settle for Toronto, when you can live in any choice of Europe’s big cities, Asia’s big cities, or even Africa’s?

Big changes in Alberta could make way to Ontario

BY ANDY VEILLEUX

When the minister who has recently become responsible for Enterprise and Advanced Education in Alberta’s provincial parliament makes comments about becoming more involved in university education in that province, and not a single university out of the six in the province comments, or they decline to comment to the Calgary Herald, that could spell trouble.

The reaction of opposition parties, faculty associations and several others around Alberta has also sent up warning flares about the recent comments.

So what is it that deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk, who was recently also given the responsibilities of Enterprise and Advanced Education by Premier Alison Redford in a recent cabinet shuffle, said that stirred the hornet’s nest?

Well, in an interview with the Calgary Herald, Lukaszuk said the government “most definitely” plans on taking on a larger role in determining university research priorities, because he felt that a “return to the taxpayer” should be a bigger priority.

For starters, the statement reeks of arrogance about the effect of university education on the economy to begin with. Education is a major driver of the economy, whether one looks at the research already being done at institutions, or the graduates who make their way into the workforce. That does not include all the money brought

into cities by universities, and the economic benefits of all the events, lodgings for students, faculty, staff, or even the salaries paid out to faculty and staff.

Lukaszuk’s said that universities will have to change in light of the new government approach, according to the article.

“Post-secondary institutions, not all but many of them, will have to view themselves perhaps through a different mirror. They will have to see themselves as integral parts and perhaps enablers of our economy.”

The idea that universities are not already enablers of the Alberta economy is a suspicious one. Surely many of those currently employed in higher-knowledge jobs in the Alberta oil fields received their credentials from somewhere, and I am willing to bet some of them come from Alberta universities.

Some of the research that went into the oil sands, and is still going into them, certainly comes from these universities.

The public relations spin on the whole idea was obvious by some of his further comments.

“If there are any levers I have in the ministry that would encourage collaboration, which would mean savings to the taxpayer and enhancing the experience of the students, I would never hesitate to use those,” he said.

Really, Lukaszuk?

The thought that something was going

to benefit the experience of students while also saving the taxpayer money is the same age-old line we have all heard a million times from politicians suggesting services will not be affected by cuts to services.

It’s a no-brainer, and complete a falsehood. It’s as tongue-in-cheek as Toronto Maple Leafs General Manager Dave Nonis trying to assure fans and media the Leafs’ goaltending situation was fine heading into the season.

At times, you almost want to believe them, but in the end you know they are dead wrong.

Lukaszuk stumbled around like an elephant with his legs tied together when asked about the arts and fine arts, and how this re-prioritization would affect students in the disciplines that did less applied research.

“There is a great deal of value in pursuing studies that don’t have perhaps direct economic impact but indirectly they also do. They often contribute to quality of life,” he said.

It seems a few recent comments in Ontario are beginning to shake the branches in a similar way.

It is not unrealistic to imagine that the government could step in to further encourage these partnerships if everything goes smoothly in Alberta.

It pays to be prepared, but maybe not quite in the way that Lukaszuk wants, or maybe, just not as much as he wants.

STC shows 'Same Time Next Year'

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

Can you love someone who isn't your spouse while still loving your spouse and kids?

This question is in the foreground of the play *Same Time Next Year*, by Bernard Slade. Directed by David Savoy and starring Jeff Miller, as George and Deborah Drakeford, as Doris, this play explores the possibility of love and commitment with someone you only meet one time a year for 25 years.

Spanning from the 1950s to the 1970s, the characters age from 25 years old to 50 and evolve from scene to scene as their lives progress before the eyes of the audience over the course of the performance.

While also being a light-hearted comedy, *Same Time Next Year* brings to light some very emotionally heavy tones as the audience is meant to sympathize with two unfaithful yet faithful characters. "Doris and George are in love with each other,"

says Miller. "But it's not because they're unhappy in their marriages; but we expect, when we watch a play about people cheating, that their unhappy in their marriages."

Both Miller and Drakeford had to opportunity to work on this very same play with Savoy seven years ago and both actors were positive about working together again. "It's delicious for actors to be able to revisit a play and find new things. I had such a wonderful time working with Jeff and David when we did the show [seven] years ago and it's a joy to be able to play around with this again," says Drakeford.

"It's really wonderful to do this play with somebody that I care about," says Miller. He also feels that his previous work and friendship with Drakeford allow for a more natural emotional connection on-stage. "Deb and I are friends outside of the theatre and we also got to work together on other shows, so we know

each other. I have this connection to Deb, that's there that I don't have to manufacture."

Miller and Drakeford, being at neither end of the age change, took many different approaches to portray the age differences their characters achieve. "It's all about energy, really," says Drakeford about portraying the characters at 25. "In the first scene Jeff and I are bouncing around and in the last scene not so much."

"We play with physicality and do some stuff with the voice," says Miller. "We're a little bit lighter and a little bit neurotic...and we try and infuse that energy in the first scene. And then when we're 50, there's some perspective people take on in middle-age."

Both actors were pleased to perform together in this play, saying that the seven-year difference since last production has given them different values to bring to their characters during the later scenes.

"As much as we hate to admit it, we are [seven] years older and so different things in the play are hitting me in a different way because I am older," says Drakeford.

Miller believes that that play will affect the audience in a way that "asks a very interesting question that might make people uncomfortable." He believes that people will be able to identify with the characters and situation, because "people are always struggling with relationships."

WUSC offers opportunity for LU students

GUEST ARTICLE BY EVA-MARIE ALLISON

World University Service of Canada, also known as WUSC is a network of students, volunteers, faculty and community leaders working together to find solutions and provide opportunities to the world's most marginalized people.

WUSC does this by educating and mobilizing young leaders, like ourselves about issues revolving around education, health and equality in developing countries. Mobilization and action spreads throughout the students at Universities by local committees participating in national campaigns and abroad programs through WUSC. There are local committees across Canada, almost one for every post secondary institution – including one right here at Laurentian.

The Laurentian Local Committee has existed since the 80's. Over the past thirty years Laurentian's successes with WUSC have included: starting an initiative now known as "Boma La Mama", a maternal health center for mothers in Tanzania, sponsoring (and continue to sponsor) students through the Student Refugee Program every other year, members of our committee selected to participate in six-week international seminars overseas. The local committee has also demonstrated participation and successful campaigning in "Shine A Light" which funds education for girls within refugee camps, and "Fair Trade Christmas" promoting fair trade products and responsible purchasing.

Within the past three years, the

Laurentian WUSC committee has had success through the event, "WAX-4-WUSC" where volunteers outside the committee, for the most part –very brave-men have raised pledges by waxing either their arms, legs or chest. WAX-4-WUSC was transformed from "Bike-4-AIDS" at Laurentian due to the cold climate we face, instead of biking, we get waxed. Both events raise money across Canada for bicycle ambulances in Malawi, assisting people living with AIDS to receive treatment. Bicycles are a solution to the high costs of vans and bad road conditions. The bicycle program in Malawi is partnered with organization CAP AIDS to help Africans resist, survive and overcome the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The bicycles themselves are \$200, a bicycle ambulance is \$500 which includes delivery and maintenance costs. Over the past three years, WUSC has raised approximately \$2200, providing four bicycle ambulances and an additional bicycle for the program through "WAX-4-WUSC".

On Wednesday, Mar. 13 the local WUSC committee will be set up in the SGA student center from 11am-3pm to share more about WUSC, WAX-4-WUSC, our work on campus and overseas and opportunities for local members. WUSC connects the local and global actions of many University students. WUSC can be contacted at wusc@laurentian.ca, or followed on Twitter @WUSC_Laurentian. For more information about World University Service of Canada visit www.wusc.ca



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Terminus: 2012-13 Playwrights' Junction Held at STC

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

For a second year the Playwrights' Junction at the Sudbury Theatre Centre held a play-script reading. Seven original one-act plays written by local writers accepted into the Playwrights' Junction were read by volunteers including many from Encore Theatre as well as many others.

Organized by STC Playwright-in-Residence, Matthew Heiti, the readings were held on Feb. 25 to an audience of approximately 100.

The STC's Playwrights' Junction follows the schedule of a 12-week program helping accepted writers in workshops and writing exercises with the goal to "explore local mythology, develop [their] own voices as writers in the North, and to contribute to the foundation of a local playwriting culture," according to their mandate.

Some of the works read included Thorneloe University theatre professor, Jenny Hazelton's *Dead Pan Land*: a silent piece. However, the reading was done of the characters' stage directions while minimally acting out some of them. The audience appeared entertained and the engaged in laughter and appropriate silence during the readings.

The writers ranged from old to young and from various writing backgrounds. Some, like Hazelton, are from theatre, while others, like Vicki Gihula came from a journalist background. "You really want that dynamic of range with gender, age and background," says Heiti.

As for the volunteering actors who read, Heiti hopes to be able to pay them for their acting next year and feels strongly about promoting local talent (actors, writers). "This

was done purely voluntarily on their own time, which was very lovely of them, and we're hoping to, next year, be able to pay people for their time to be acting and reading here," he says.

Heiti was pleased with the turnout for the audience that night. "It was fantastic," he says. "You couldn't ask for more at a play reading. I think there's a real hunger in this city for work written from people from Sudbury about Sudbury."

North Road Theatre joins the Sudbury scene

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

Sudbury is a city that can now claim to house three professional theatre companies: the long-standing STC, the new 'edgy' Encore Theatre and now North Road Theatre.

North Road Theatre, however, is founded by a group of seasoned professionals. Founded by Bill Lane with Pandora Topp and Thorneloe Theatre Chair, Patricia Tedford, North Road Theatre "strives to reflect the realities of the north, as well as provide new opportunities to emerging northern artists."

Lane had come to Thorneloe to teach while Ian MacLennan was on sabbatical leave in 2011-2012 and directed the production of *Down the Main Drag*. Before coming to Sudbury, Lane has had over 30 years of theatre and radio experience as a playwright,

director and dramaturge.

Lane intends for North Road to offer a sort of theatre that Sudbury is not used to and that changed some of the conventional perceptions of what a theatre experience should be.

"North Road is promising a kind of theatre that brings live music and visual impact into the foreground," he says. "Theatre that breaks out of traditional spaces into informal and welcoming venues like the Moose Lodge and the Town House downtown."

Lane says he plans on taking the shows on the road—as the company name implies—across Highway 17 to cities like North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and "beyond."

For their first production, they will be doing *Muskeg & Money*, by Canadian playwright Mansel Robinson. The production will be

opening on May 15 as part of the Mayworks Festival.

Two of the three roles, he has confirmed, have been cast with Topp and Tedford, however he says to be looking for young local talent to play the role of Thea, the teenaged daughter in the play.

Lane is looking for performers with "strong musical talent, because music will be a key element in the production."

Auditions are scheduled for Monday, March 11 and will be "open to all."

To find out more or to book an audition, contact Lane at northroadtheatre@bell.net.

Review: The Last Days of Judas Iscariot

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

It was nigh impossible to walk away from the debut performance of Thorneloe's *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* without feeling anything short of amazement. It was a very well knit conglomeration of dedicated and energetic cast and crew that, together, created a show that will undoubtedly be mentioned for quite some time.

From the first sight of the stage, the mysticism created through calm lighting and haze, while silhouettes decorated the industrial-like scaffolding in the background felt other-worldly and set the tone perfectly.

The Cambrian College Technical Theatre Production crew truly outdid themselves with the set, creating a more three dimensional space than what is normally present.

In the background, scaffolding reached up multiple levels, while in the mid-ground, the judge's seat reached well above the courtroom floor, but beneath the actors in the back and the foreground sat beneath it all. The effect created was a very good use of the stage space as both horizontal and vertical space was used to fill the view of the audience with the wide spectrum of characters in widely varied costumes.

Patricia Tedford made some very crucial directorial decisions that enhanced the performance greatly through the total emersion of the audience. The play takes place in a court room and the characters interact with the building outside of the stage, using house seating for members of the jury and the entrance door to the theatre as the door to the courtroom instead of the wings on stage, as well as most eerily, in the entrance of Satan, he is right in the face of the audience.

Other aspects that play on this choice is during the trial, those on the witness stand speak to the audience (as well as characters at different points) in a way that takes away the need to create the illusion of watching the court case and replaces it with the feeling at the theatre—including house—is part of the courtroom.

With its massive cast of 18, it's very hard to talk about everybody. It very important to note, however, that regardless of the size of the role that some performers had, it would have been detrimental to the entire show had they not put in as much effort as they did. The level of energy from the cast was clearly visible from even the smallest of parts. It was very beneficial to the production that the roles were not all double-casted, as having such a variety of performers,

all bringing something unique to the show, created a good dynamic.

Amongst those who stood out on stage, were Kelsie Bennett, as Cunningham, Jake McNeil, as El-Fayoumy, and Scotty Cummings, as Satan.

The dynamic created by both Bennett and McNeil as opposing lawyers on the stage was well done. Acting as foils to one another, Fayoumy being a very humble and grovelling people-pleaser, while Cunningham was a very strong hard-working defender, their interactions served as the comedic relationship throughout the play. More so, they developed the relationship between both characters so to be more.

Cummings' performance as Satan brought a very sinister presence to the stage. Even with his seemingly snarky attitude during his earlier presence in the court, he commanded an air that was very edgy. The delivery of 'jokes' said by Satan made it hard to take them as evil insults or as poor-tasted jokes; however, Cummings flips that around and shows the very side of the character that we are meant to fear.

It was at that very instance, that he played Satan at its best as the audience felt badly for the characters, especially Cunningham, as Satan lashed out.

In reacting to Satan's words, this is where Bennett's performance of Cunningham becomes truly astounding as she seems to be on the brink of breaking down, and becomes more nervous and short of breath. Bennett's voice becomes cracked, innocent and powerless—destroying the confidence she built for her character from the beginning—and her physicality reflects the situation very well. The audience was left to watch, jaw-dropping, while this happened.

As a whole, *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* brings in many elements and individuals to create a piece set in a timeless environment combining both modern and industrial tones with classical ones. It was a very good combination of script, directing, casting, dedication, and skilled crew members that brought a very entertaining production to light as well as leaving the audience with many important questions to ask about love and betrayal.

I would highly recommend seeing this production, as missing a production of this calibre would be a real tragedy.

Behind the Curtain: The Last Days of Judas Iscariot

BY RYEN VELDHUIS

For the second production at Thorneloe University, Theatre Chair Patricia Tedford has decided to direct *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. The play takes place in purgatory and is about the trail of Judas Iscariot, the traitor to Jesus.

The case was finally brought to court after defense attorney Fabiana Aziza Cunningham (Kelsie Bennett) gets a signed writ from God. However, Yusef El-Fayoumy (Jake McNeil), a prosecutor from hell claims to want to defend the gates of heaven from Judas.

And so the battle begins as various witnesses are brought to the stand, like Mother Teresa (Jananee Bonello-Stauch), Sigmund Freud (Alexander Pugliese), Satan (Scotty Cummings) and many more. Meanwhile, Judas is caught in despair and is in a catatonic state.

Tedford stated that the idea of producing this play first came from reading of a review. "Honestly

I read a review before I read the play and one of the reviews said 'this play could save your life' and I thought 'wow that's something.' When I read it I was completely turned on by the script. It moved me to tears."

The cast has a massive 18 actors in roles that could have been double-casted, but Tedford decided against it. McNeil thought working with so many actors was "quite wonderful."

"It's the largest cast that I've ever had the experience to play around with," he said. "You see all these characters come to life in different ways. There're a lot of great actors... every part brings their characters to life. It will make the show very colourful."

Bennett found it "really fun" to work with such a large cast, reminiscing to her experiences from *Les Belles Soeurs* last year. She said that working with a large cast was "not as intimate" but becomes more of a "team effort."

For some of the performers, like Bennett and McNeil, it is their final performance as students at Thorneloe. "This is my last show at Thorneloe, so it's a little sad," said Bennett. "But, I'm really happy to have this show as my last show. I'm really proud of it and proud of the work that has been done."

The set, provided by Cambrian College's Theatre Technical crew, was highly regarded by the performers. McNeil said, "Ken Salah and his team at Cambrian College have just been wicked on this. I think this is the best set that they have constructed in Thorneloe."

The Last Days of Judas Iscariot will be playing at the Ernie Checkeris Theatre at Thorneloe on Mar. 7-9 at 7:30 p.m. for \$10 a ticket.

(Comedy) Student Debt: Pros and Cons

BY TROY GOLDFORCASH

We at The Lambda wanted to get this real life issue out in the open by challenging two people to debate the topic “Be it resolved that Student Debt is beneficial to students”. Taking the Pro side is one of the Board of Governors who owns two car dealerships and five apartment complexes, Phil Goldforcash. Stepping up to take the Con side is Jake Malone who is currently, and perhaps ironically, enrolled in Economics. He is in the fifth year of a four-year degree.

PRO: I think a lot of the misconceptions about the negativity of student debt come from some of the words that are carelessly associated with it. “Crushing”, “crippling” “lifetime of” and “horrible”. It might be more constructive to reframe the argument by rebranding “student debt” and associating it with more reasonable terms. Instead of “debt” let’s call it “positive flow of negative equity”, it means essentially the same thing but doesn’t sound as prejudicial. And no one wants to be prejudiced. And instead of “crushing” let’s call it “external motivator”, because that is what this crushing student debt is, a powerful motivator to get good grades, get

graduated and become a productive member of the Canadian workforce. In fact, if students didn’t have a debt when they graduated to motivate them, what would stop them from spending all day in bed smoking pot? Consider your student debt as Laurentian University’s parting gift to you. So what you now have is a “student external motivator by the positive flow of equity in the counter-forward direction” and already we feel a lot better about it.

CON: I haven’t eaten a full meal in ten days.

PRO: Which reminds me to speak of our meal plan here at Laurentian University. For the cost of only a few dollars a bite, Laurentian University provides all of its students with a cafeteria that is fully stocked with food and food-like products. Sometimes I’ll hear students complain that our world-renown cafeteria doesn’t provide much variety in the way of food. I am so shocked by this it often takes two of my butlers to get my (metaphoric) jaw off the floor. Be it pierogi day, or taco day, or pierogi filled taco day, the cafeteria offers so much variety and international cuisine that sometimes I have to check my passport to make sure I haven’t accidentally landed my private

jet in some foreign land.

CON: I had to sell my car to pay for rent.

PRO: What were you doing owning a car in the first place? Students get a free bus pass (that was paid for by increasing their student fees) to be able to take advantage of one of the finest and most reliable bus transit systems in the world. I think. I have never ridden a bus myself so I am not sure how you could make a comparison. Whenever my limo drives by a group of happy students huddled together for warmth at a bus shelter in minus 20 degree weather with a side chaser of -37 degree windchill (or refresher wind, as I am rebranding it) I think how lucky they are to enjoy the camaraderie that comes with the joy of taking public transportation. It reminds me of the time that Joe and I shared a golf cart at our club, just for the heck of it, instead of renting two. Good times.

CON: I’m working three jobs to make enough to pay for my textbooks.

PRO: See? That is what I am talking about. He was motivated by student debt to get THREE jobs. Thus proving that the minimum wage job market is still bustling and that the threat of

having to declare bankruptcy before you are 22 is a positive incentive enhancement to find work.

CON: I had to sell my blood for money.

PRO: You can thank your professors in the Economics department for teaching you the wisdom of selling a renewable resource like that. That is what your student negative-equity flow is getting you, an education that pays itself back with interest in a few years after graduating with the ability to earn higher wages at jobs that theoretically could exist by the time you graduate.

In conclusion, I think it is clear that student debt is beneficial to students as a motivator and for what it buys you. On top of that, living below the poverty line teaches you an appreciation of the finer things in life: food, and shelter. It teaches you to make difficult choices, should I eat the whole package of Mr. Noodles in one sitting or stretch it out for a couple of meals? And it teaches you the value of a penny. Which just became zero last month.

CON: (passed out due to exhaustion and hunger)



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